

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, PE

SUBJECT: LABOR PROBLEMS AND POLITICAL ASYLUM

REF: LIMA 9512

SUMMARY: IN A DECEMBER 1 PRESS CONFERENCE INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS DISCUSSED GOP LABOR PROBLEMS. HE ALSO COMMENTED ON THE REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM BY ARMY CAPTAIN (RET.) HECTOR PORTELLA. CISNEROS RETURNED AGAIN TO THE QUESTION OF REOPENING OF LOCAL MAGAZINES. FINALLY, HE ALLUDED TO CABINET CHANGES WITH REFERENCE TO HIS OWN FUTURE PLANS. END SUMMARY.

1. INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS TOLD NEWSMEN DECEMBER 1 THAT THE PERUVIAN WORKERS ARE INCREASINGLY AWARE THAT SOME LABOR LEADERS ARE MANIPULATING THEM IN ORDER TO SUBVERT LAW AND ORDER. THEY REJECT SUCH MANIPULATION, SAID CISNEROS. THE FISHERMEN ARE A CASE IN POINT. ACCORDING TO CISNEROS, THE STRIKE WAS ORIGINATED BY THE FEDERACION DE PESCADORES DEL PERU (FPP) WHICH INFLUENCED FISHERMEN TO PURSUE A POLICY DAMAGING TO THEMSELVES AND TO THE COUNTRY. FISHERMEN NOW REALIZE THIS, CISNEROS CLAIMED. HE ADDED THAT SOME LEADERS OF THE FPP CONTINUE UNDER INVESTIGATION, BECAUSE IT APPEARS THAT THEY HAVE ACTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH SUBVERSIVE GROUPS.

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2. GENERAL CISNEROS NOTED THAT ARMY CAPTAIN (RET) HECTOR

PORTELLA HAS SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY. HE ADDED THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW THE REASON FOR PORTELLA'S ACTION, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS AN INVESTIGATION INTO HIS CASE FOLLOWING HIS DISMISSAL FROM THE ARMY. HE STRESSED THAT THERE ARE NO FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST PORTELLA. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HE CONTINUED, WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF SAFE CONDUCT WHEN IT RECEIVES AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY.

3. COMMENTING ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION OF PERU, MINISTER CISNEROS SAID THAT IT APPEARS TO BE STABLE AND QUIET PRIMARILY DUE TO THE CONTINUING EMERGENCY MEASURES. HE ADDED THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE LIMA CURFEW WOULD BE RELAXED DURING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR, BUT THAT HE WILL RECOMMEND THAT THE CURFEW CONTINUE UNMODIFIED.

4. IN REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION OF THE REOPENING OF LOCAL MAGAZINES AND POLITICAL JOURNALS, THE MINISTER MENTIONED THAT THE GOP IS WAITING FOR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TWO INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS STUDYING THE CASE. THE GOP FAVORS THE REOPENING OF MAGAZINES BUT WITH CONTROLS IN ORDER THAT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE ABUSE OF FREEDOM OR SUBVERSION.

5. ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO SPECULATION ON ANTICIPATED MINISTERIAL CHANGES, CISNEROS SAID THEY WILL REFLECT MILITARY NEEDS RELATING TO PROMOTIONS AND NEED FOR MILITARY OFFICERS TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE SERVICE BRANCHES. ON HIS OWN FUTURE, CISNEROS SAID HE WAS UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD REMAIN AS INTERIOR MINISTER.

6. COMMENT. THE PORTELLA POLITICAL ASYLUM CASE RELATES TO THE FALL OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADE AND PORTELLA'S ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT WITH SUBVERSIVE GROUPS INCLUDING THE EJERCITO POPULAR DEL PUEBLO. PORTELLA HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN JAILED AND THEN CASHIERED FROM THE ARMY. CISNEROS' COMMENTS ON RESPONSIBLE WORKERS REJECTING MANIPULATIONS OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED LEADERS PRESUMABLY CONVINCED NO ONE. HIS REMARKS ON THE POLITICAL JOURNALS IMPLY LITTLE FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THAT ISSUE, SINCE THE GOP REMAINS CONCERNED WITH POTENTIAL CRITICISM.

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